

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates.

The media serves as public trustees of the airwaves public information systems - a public commons. It is one of the main means that our society uses to communicate with itself and promote and exercise democracy. Broadcasters currently have free use of the public's airwaves and in return have a responsibility to provide and promote diverse coverage. It seems that the majority of TV stations are motivated by their ratings and profits - not by providing diverse programming. TV programming is extremely critical because it reaches the vast majority of the population. It is the main source of entertainment and news information for many in our society. There are many who cannot afford or will not pay for cable/satellite programming. These people are subjected to the brainless programming of sitcoms, tabloid news and dispicable talk shows - truly a "boob tube"!!! During the 2000 presidential race, 2 of the 4 major networks chose not to air a presidential debate live because it ! was too expensive of a burden.

How does that foster democracy? Broadcasters should be ashamed and the FCC must, at a minimum, enforce the existing rules of media ownership. Further, if newspapers and radio are allowed to join ownership with the TV networks, this society is in a sad place where all that matters is the bottom line.